

# Building Memories- Westside Multi-Generational Center Public Art Project Fact Sheet



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Photo: Craig Smith

**Title:** Building Memories

**Location:** Westside Multi-Generational Center, 715 W 5th St.

**Artists:** Jim Campbell

**Completion:** 2001

**Medium:** Video monitors and cameras, computer and software

**Description:** Building memories is an interactive video art project which links together the lobby, gymnasium, senior activity space and game room to create a live video collage with images specific to the building and grounds. The projections utilize images taken of the building during its construction, as well as images of the grounds taken by young people on a yearly basis. A software program then collages these images of the building with images taken by fixed cameras in the building. The program randomly assembles images taken over the course of the previous year, giving

priority to the most recently recorded images. It has an "artificial intelligence" which allows spaces that are more active to display more recently recorded imagery. The projected images do not connect the spaces for the use of communication or observation; rather they reveal an overall ambiance of the various activities within the building by creating a view to an imaginary space.

**Funding:** The project was funded through city of Tempe Capital Improvement Project Percent for Art funds.

**Artist biography:** Jim Campbell was born in Chicago and now lives in San Francisco. He received two Bachelor of Science degrees in Mathematics and Engineering. He has shown internationally and throughout North America in institutions such as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Carpenter Center at Harvard University, the Power Plant in Toronto and the International Center for Photography in New York. His work is included in the collections of Don Fisher of the Gap Corporation, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the University Art Museum at Berkeley. Campbell has received many awards for his work including a Guggenheim Fellowship award for 2003-2004.

**Artist statement:** Attempting to create systems that respond and progress in recognizably non-random, but at the same time unpredictable ways, I have tried to create works that have destinies of their own. Having always been fascinated with the philosophical analogies of certain scientific disciplines, my work has been very influenced by science, in particular some of the ideas relating to chaos and quantum mechanics. Using technological tools and scientific models as metaphors for memory and illusion, my work seeks to interpret, represent and mirror psychological states and processes, and their breakdown. Time and memory, individual and collective, electronic and real are the elements of my work.